

**WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS PATENT**  
**OF THE UNITED STATES IS:**

1. A toner composition comprising:  
toner particles comprising:

5           a binder resin comprising:  
            a modified polyester resin; and  
            a second resin having a weight average  
molecular weight of from 2,000 to 10,000,

            a colorant;  
10           a release agent; and  
            a particulate material which is present in at least  
a surface portion of the toner particles while embedded into  
the surface portion,

            wherein the toner particles are prepared by a method  
15 comprising dissolving or dispersing a composition, which  
comprises at least a modified polyester resin (A) capable of  
reacting with an active hydrogen and the second resin; the  
colorant, the release agent and a compound having an active  
hydrogen, in an organic solvent to prepare an oil phase liquid;  
20 dispersing the oil phase liquid in an aqueous medium including  
a particulate material while subjecting the modified polyester  
resin (A) to a polymerization reaction to prepare the modified  
polyester resin and to prepare a dispersion; removing the  
organic solvent of the dispersion to prepare the toner  
25 particles; washing the toner particles; and drying the toner  
particles,

            wherein the binder resin has a glass transition

temperature not lower than 35°C and lower than 55°C, and wherein the particulate material has an average particle diameter of from 0.002 to 0.2 times that of the toner particles.

5           2. The toner composition according to Claim 1, wherein the particulate material comprises a particulate resin having a glass transition temperature of from 40 to 100 °C.

10           3. The toner composition according to Claim 2, wherein the particulate material has a glass transition temperature of from 55 to 100 °C.

15           4. The toner composition according to Claim 2, wherein the particulate resin is crosslinked.

            5. The toner composition according to Claim 1, wherein the particulate material comprises an inorganic particulate material.

20           6. The toner composition according to Claim 1, wherein the binder resin includes tetrahydrofuran-insoluble components in an amount of from 2 to 30 % by weight.

25           7. The toner composition according to Claim 2, wherein the particulate resin has a weight average molecular weight of from 9,000 to 200,000, and wherein the particulate resin is included in the toner particles in an amount of from 0.5 to 5.0 %

by weight based on total weight of the toner particles.

8. The toner composition according to Claim 1, wherein the second resin is an unmodified polyester resin, and wherein  
5 a ratio (i/ii) of the modified polyester resin (i) to the unmodified polyester resin (ii) is from 5/95 to 60/40.

9. The toner composition according to Claim 8, wherein the unmodified polyester resin has an acid value of from 0.5  
10 to 40 mgKOH/g.

10. The toner composition according to Claim 2, wherein the particulate resin includes a resin selected from the group consisting of vinyl resins, polyurethane resins, epoxy resins  
15 and polyester resins.

11. The toner composition according to Claim 2, wherein the particulate resin has a volume average particle diameter of from 50 to 500 nm.  
20

12. The toner composition according to Claim 1, wherein the toner particles have an average circularity of from 0.975 to 0.900.

25 13. The toner composition according to Claim 1, wherein the toner particles have a spindle form.

14. The toner composition according to Claim 13, wherein  
a ratio ( $r2/r1$ ) of a minor axis particle diameter ( $r2$ ) of the  
toner particles to a major axis particle diameter ( $r1$ ) of the  
toner particles is from 0.5 to 0.8, and a ratio ( $r3/r2$ ) of a  
5 thickness ( $r3$ ) of the toner particles to the minor axis particle  
diameter ( $r2$ ) is from 0.7 to 1.0.

15. The toner composition according to Claim 1, wherein  
the second resin is an unmodified polyester resin, and wherein  
10 the particulate resin is a resin having units obtained from  
styrene and methacrylic acid and satisfying the following  
relationship:

$$10 \leq a \leq 51, 15 \leq b \leq 51, \text{ and } 0.4 \leq a/b \leq 2.5,$$

wherein  $a$  and  $b$  respectively represent weight ratios of styrene  
15 and methacrylic acid based on total monomers constituting the  
particulate resin.

16. The toner composition according to Claim 1, wherein  
the toner has a flow starting point ( $Tfb$ ) of from 80 to 170 °C.

20 17. The toner composition according to Claim 1, wherein  
the toner particles have a volume average particle diameter ( $Dv$ )  
of from 3 to 7  $\mu m$ .

25 18. The toner composition according to Claim 17, wherein  
a ratio ( $Dv/Dn$ ) of the volume average particle diameter ( $Dv$ )  
to a number average particle diameter ( $Dn$ ) of the toner

particles is not greater than 1.25.

19. The toner composition according to Claim 1, wherein the second resin is an unmodified polyester resin, and wherein  
5 tetrahydrofuran-soluble components of the modified polyester resin and the unmodified polyester resin have a number average molecular weight of from 2,000 to 15,000 and a molecular weight distribution such that a peak is observed in a range of from 1,000 to 30,000, and components having a molecular weight not  
10 less than 30,000 is included in an amount not less than 1 % by weight.

20. The toner composition according to Claim 19, wherein components having a molecular weight not greater than 1,000 are  
15 included in the tetrahydrofuran-soluble components of the modified polyester resin and the unmodified polyester resin in an amount of from 0.1 to 5.0 % by weight.

21. The toner composition according to Claim 1, wherein  
20 the binder resin comprises tetrahydrofuran-insoluble components in an amount of from 1 to 15 % by weight based on total weight of the binder resin.

22. The toner composition according to Claim 1, wherein  
25 the release agent is a wax.

23. The toner composition according to Claim 1, further

comprising an external additive which is present at least on a surface of the toner particles.

24. A toner composition comprising:

5        toner particles comprising:

         a binder resin comprising:

             a modified polyester resin; and

             a second resin having a weight average  
molecular weight of from 2,000 to 10,000,

10        a colorant;

         a release agent; and

         a particulate material which is present at least  
a surface portion of the toner particles while embedded into  
the surface portion;

15        wherein the binder resin has a glass transition  
temperature not lower than 35°C and lower than 55°C, and wherein  
the particulate material has an average particle diameter of  
from 0.002 to 0.2 times that of the toner particles.

20        25. A toner container containing the toner composition  
according to Claim 1.

26. A method for manufacturing a toner composition  
comprising toner particles, comprising:

25        dissolving or dispersing a composition, which comprises  
at least a modified polyester resin (A) capable of reacting with  
an active hydrogen, a second resin having a weight average

molecular weight of from 2,000 to 10,000, a colorant, a release agent and a compound having an active hydrogen, in an organic solvent to prepare an oil phase liquid;

dispersing the oil phase liquid in an aqueous medium  
5 including a particulate material while subjecting the modified polyester resin (A) to a polymerization reaction to prepare a modified polyester resin and to prepare a dispersion;

removing at least the organic solvent in the dispersion to prepare the toner particles;

10 washing the toner particles; and  
drying the toner particles.

27. A developer comprising:

a toner according to Claim 1; and

15 a carrier comprising a layer on a surface thereof, wherein the layer comprises at least one of an acrylic resin and a silicone resin.

28. A method for fixing a toner image, comprising:

20 passing an image bearing material bearing a toner image thereon through a nip between a fixing belt and a pressure member while applying heat to the toner image to fix the toner image on the image bearing material, wherein the fixing belt has a U form at the nip,

25 wherein the toner is the toner according to Claim 1.